

WOMEN IN SQUASH ENCOURAGEMENT FUND 2020

2019 EVENTS RECAP




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Canada 



**SQUASH
REPUBLIC**
POWER TO THE PLAYER



The **Women in Squash Encouragement Fund** was established to promote women's and girl's participation in Squash in Canada. The fund supports stakeholders that are developing new and/or are expanding current initiatives that build capacity for gender equity in Squash. In 2019, a total of \$7,400 was distributed to eleven recipients across Canada.



Event: Squash for Women (E Level)
Host Club: Kings County Squash Club
Location: Kentville, Nova Scotia
Lead: Janet MacLeod
Frequency: Weekly, 8 weeks
Format: Learn to play clinics



With encouragement from a supportive coach, 16 players gained confidence, improved, and expressed a desire to continue in squash. The host club was showcased as a destination for women.

Comments from participants

"I've been curious about the game of Squash since I was a teen but I never had the opportunity to try. Having this learning experience has been wonderful and I'm realizing that I really enjoy it! Thanks so much for the opportunity!"

"I am grateful for the women's squash encouragement fund and the opportunity it provided me to return to the courts, improve my skills under the guidance of Janet, while meeting new people who I can continue playing the sport with!"

"What a great opportunity! Thank you for the chance to have someone to help me get back into squash."

"I had no idea when I decided to join a friend to come play squash what an impact it would have on me. I thought I was just going to learn how to play the game. Instead, I found a new social outlet [...] and an added reason to feel good about myself for learning and improving on a new skill."



Event: Squash Booster (A-C Level)
Host Club: Cedar Hill Recreation Club
Location: Victoria, British Columbia
Lead: Giselle Delgado
Frequency: Half day event
Format: Tournament & exhibition



24 new and returning players competed on teams in a fun and social atmosphere that culminated in an exciting exhibition match between two top Canadian female players.

Event: Women in Squash (E Level)

Host Club: West Hillhurst Community Association

Location: Calgary, Alberta

Lead: Amanda Thompson

Frequency: Two 1.5 hour clinics

Format: Learn to play clinics



21 women of all ages from the local community discovered squash through access to these clinics. Participants expressed a desire for more training and better promotion of courts in their area.

Comments from participants

"Thoroughly enjoyed the experience with the two highly experienced, kind and professional instructors. Piqued my interest in the sport."

"Learned a lot of new things about the squash"

"Awesome clinic. Highly recommend!"



Event: Squash Girls (E Level)

Host Club: Saint Mary's University - SMU Fit

Location: Halifax, Nova Scotia

Lead: Melissa Shakespeare

Frequency: Two 2.5-Hour Camps

Format: Learn to play camps



Beginner camps for 19 juniors established a demand for regular training and instruction. Girls invited their friends to learn to play and the program will be repeated and continue to grow.

Event: Women's Box League (D Level)

Host Club: University of Alberta Squash Club

Location: Edmonton, Alberta

Lead: Zain Ul Abideen

Frequency: Weekly for 8 weeks

Format: Competitive box ladder



Program encouraged 9 women to try competitive match play. As a result, one player entered her first ever tournament and the club will continue to encourage women into competition.

Event: SQUASH the Barriers! (E-D Level)

Host Club: Better Bodies Cross Training

Location: Whitehorse, Yukon

Lead: Marie Desmarais

Frequency: 3 sessions

Format: Learn to play and compete



24 beginner and intermediate women and girls learned to play and love the game of squash from female coaches in an encouraging and welcoming environment.

Event: Saskatoon Women's Squash Group (E Level)

Host Club: Innovation Place

Location: Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Lead: Carla Dyck

Frequency: Semi-weekly, 6 weeks

Format: Learn to play



Demand for ongoing programs for 12 new and returning women firmly established with enthusiasm from both organizers and participants.

Event: All Women in Squash – All Levels

Host Club: Inuvik Squash Club

Location: Inuvik, North West Territories

Lead: Britney Selina

Frequency: 2x per week, 8 weeks

Format: Clinics for all ages and levels



20 new players and juniors impacted by the program expressed a strong interest in ongoing programming, especially the creation of a youth program.

Event: Emerging Female Leaders in Squash (C Level)

Host Club: Multiple venues

Location: Province-wide, British Columbia

Lead: Shelley Neil

Frequency: 1x event, 2 months publicity

Format: Forum & publicity campaign



Female leaders were recognized and discussed opportunities to grow women's squash. One club doubled female membership and one female leader earned her Level 1 coach certification.

Event: Squash Pour Elles (E-C Level)
Host Club: Squash Outaouais – Sporthèque
Location: Gatineau, Quebec
Lead: Maxym Leclair
Frequency: Monthly over 3 months
Format: Clinics and group lessons



Squash Pour Elles brought new women into squash in numbers that support offering ongoing female programs like monthly squash nights, group lessons, and lunch and evening leagues.